THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Government has not received any proposal from music composers about their plan to re-render the National Anthem for the new millennium.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Porous Indo-Nepal Border

640. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 796 Kms. UP-Nepal border is extremely prone and susceptible to infiltration; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to adequately equip Indo-Nepal border force to act as an effective watch dog for the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Indo-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a visa- free regime. In recent years, this border has been misused by Pakistan agencies for sponsoring terrorist activities directed against India. In view of these developments, cooperation between Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal in combating such activities has been strengthened through institutional mechanisms, such as Indo-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. As a result of this cooperation several terrorist conspiracies sponsored by under-cover intelligence operatives of Pakistan based in its Embassy in Kathmandu have been neutralised in recent years. Government of India has also prepared an Action plan in consultation with concerned States for strengthening of policing/intelligence collection machinery along the border, including patrolling of vulnerable streches.

White Paper on CIA Activity

641. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to issue a white paper on CIA activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Law and Order in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East

642. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of law and order problem in the Jammu and Kashmir and North-East region of the country; and

(b) the details of concrete steps taken by Government to improve the situation in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Jammu and Kashmir—Basically the Law and Order problem in Jammu and Kashmir is created by the Terrorists sponsored from across the border. There have been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and Pro-Pak militant outfits to induct mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carry out terrorist activities. During the year 1999, 821 civilians and 356 security personnel were killed by terrorists. The Security Forces killed 1082 militants during 1999.

The Government has adopted a multi pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Group of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces etc.

Steps have also been taken afresh to flush out militants, check infiltration and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border by intensive patrolling and extensive search operations.

N.E. Region: Presence of long porous borders has facilitated the movement of insurgent groups as well as the inflow of illegal arms into the region, besides the large scale of influx of illegal migrants into the country. Pak ISI has also been assisting the insurgents. Lack of employment opportunities other than in Government sector has also fuelled the influx of neo-literate youth into insurgent groups.